

Calendar No. 307

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 1516****[Report No. 108–164]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 14, 2003

Reported by Mr. SPECTER, with amendments and an amendment to the title

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

AN ACT

To provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of five additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Cemetery Ex-
5 pansion Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than four years
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 of Veterans Affairs, in accordance with chapter 24 of title
5 38, United States Code, shall establish ~~five~~ *six* new na-
6 tional cemeteries. The new cemeteries shall be located in
7 the following locations (those locations having been deter-
8 mined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be the most
9 appropriate locations for new national cemeteries):

10 (1) Southeastern Pennsylvania.

11 (2) The Birmingham, Alabama, area.

12 (3) The Jacksonville, Florida, area.

13 (4) The Bakersfield, California, area.

14 (5) The Greenville/Columbia, South Carolina,
15 area.

16 (6) *The Sarasota County, Florida, area.*

17 (b) FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated for the Depart-
18 ment of Veterans Affairs for any fiscal year after fiscal
19 year 2003 for Advance Planning shall be available for the
20 purposes of subsection (a).

21 (c) SITE SELECTION PROCESS.—In determining the
22 specific sites for the new cemeteries required by subsection
23 (a) within the locations specified in that subsection, the
24 Secretary shall solicit the advice and views of representa-
25 tives of State and local veterans organizations and other
26 individuals as the Secretary considers appropriate.

1 (d) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
3 submit to Congress a report on the establishment of the
4 national cemeteries required by subsection (a). The report
5 shall—

6 (1) set forth a schedule for the establishment of
7 each such cemetery and an estimate of the costs as-
8 sociated with the establishment of each such ceme-
9 tery; and

10 (2) identify the amount of Advance Planning
11 Funds obligated for purposes of this section as of
12 the submission of the report.

13 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit
14 to Congress an annual report on the implementation of
15 this section until the establishment of all ~~five~~ *six* ceme-
16 teries is completed and each such cemetery has opened.
17 The Secretary shall include in each such annual report an
18 update of the information provided under paragraphs (1)
19 and (2) of subsection (d).

20 (f) DEFINITION OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYL-
21 VANIA.—In this section, the term “southeastern Pennsyl-
22 vania” means the city of Philadelphia and Berks County,
23 Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Phila-
24 delphia County, and Montgomery County in the State of
25 Pennsylvania.

Amend the title to read: “An Act to provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration.”.

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